

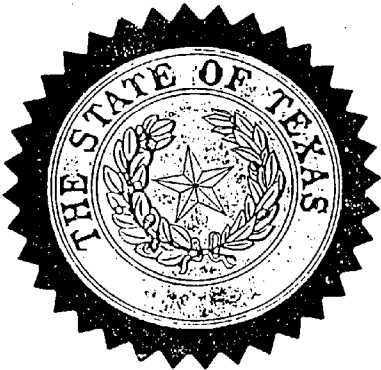
OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM
STATE OF TEXAS
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

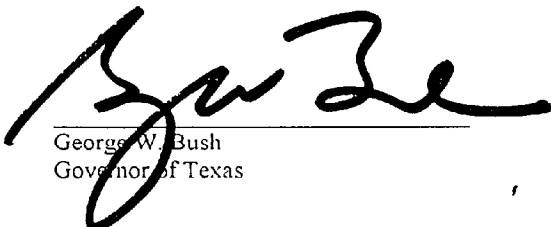
TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pursuant to Article IV, Section 14, of the Texas Constitution, I, George W. Bush, Governor of Texas, do hereby disapprove and veto Senate Bill No. 247 because of the following objection:

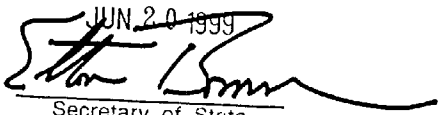
Senate Bill No. 247 proposes a drastic change in the way indigent criminal defendants are assigned counsel. While well-intentioned, the effect of the bill is likely to be neither better representation for indigents nor a more efficient administration of justice. The bill inappropriately takes appointment authority away from judges, who are better able to assess the quality of legal representation, and gives it to county officials. The bill creates the potential for counties to set up a new layer of bureaucracy that could result in increased backlogs and decreased court efficiency. In addition, the bill poses a danger to public safety by requiring a judge to release a defendant if the defendant has not been assigned a lawyer within 20 days of requesting one.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto signed my name officially and caused the Seal of the State to be affixed hereto at Austin, this 20th day of June, 1999.




George W. Bush
Governor of Texas

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE
SECRETARY OF STATE
11:45pm O'CLOCK

JUN 20 1999

Secretary of State